

back-to-school

UPDATE 2011

STATE SENATOR

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Green: We must spend smarter

With limited funding, every dollar has to work harder.

With other Senate members, I have been developing common sense reforms to keep more money in the classroom, including:

- **Senate Bill 7** – limits school districts to paying no more than 80 percent of employee health care costs;
- **Senate Bill 400** – requires school districts to provide the insurance claims data necessary to “shop around” for the best deal in health care; and
- **Senate Bills 426-427** – require school elections to be held in November of even-numbered years, saving schools and taxpayers millions of dollars, and ensuring greater turnout of concerned parents and taxpayers.

Green: Let's make sure our schools are accountable and successful

I also want to touch on a couple of reforms that will help improve our schools and lead to greater student success.

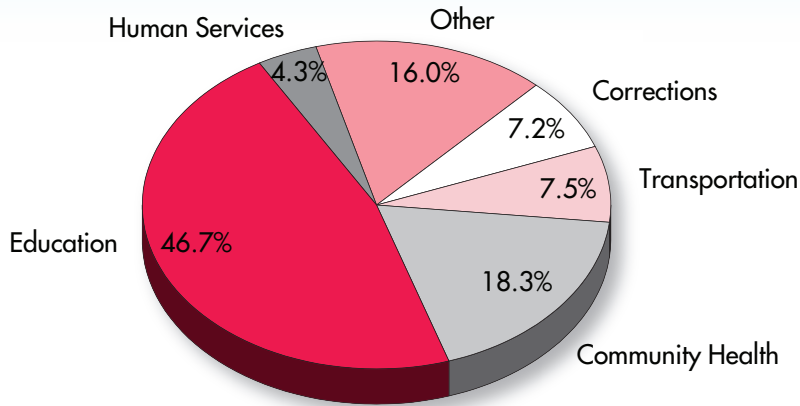
A new tool for parents included in the budget this year will increase accountability and transparency. Schools are required to issue “report cards” to parents that disclose dropout, truancy and graduation rates, MEAP scores over time, the number of days of instruction and college readiness.

We also acted to make sure the best teachers are instructing our kids. New teachers will need to demonstrate student learning in order to get tenure and poor teachers will be more easily removed from the classroom. Future layoffs will be based on teacher performance rather than simple seniority.



Education: the biggest slice of the state spending pie

A quick look at K-12 funding as part of overall state spending reflects our continued commitment to education. School Aid accounts for more than \$11 billion while the rest of the state spending budget – Medicaid, human services, corrections, revenue sharing, most of higher education, state police and veterans affairs – shares about \$15.9 billion.



Total: \$26,929,655,600

From small beginnings grow....

Early learning is the key to a child's future success in school and in life.

Young children and their families will benefit from a recent executive order to pull together early childhood programs and resources from multiple state departments into a single Michigan Office of Great Start.



By managing health and early learning programs under the same umbrella, it will be easier to make sure more kids are school ready and on track for academic success when they start kindergarten.

Learn more about it at
www.michigan.gov/greatstart.

Resource Guide for Parents

Michigan Children's Protection Registry
www.ProtectMIChild.com

Michigan Virtual High School
www.mivhs.org

Michigan School Report Cards
School Profiles
<https://www.mischooldata.org>

Michigan Education Dashboard
www.michigan.gov/midashboard

School Violence Hotline
1-800-815-TIPS
www.michigan.gov/safeschools

Michigan Cyber Safety Initiative
www.michigan.gov/csi

Michigan Department of Education
www.michigan.gov/mde

Michigan Merit Exam
www.michigan.gov/mme

High School Graduation Requirements
www.michigan.gov/highschool

Michigan E-Library (*MeL Kids*)
www.mel.org

U.S. Government Kids Site
www.kids.gov

MI Child (*Health Insurance for Uninsured Children*)
1-888-988-6300

Michigan Education Trust
www.setwithmet.com
1-800-MET-4-KID

Michigan Education Savings Plan
www.misaves.com
1-877-861-MESP

Green supports new child safety laws

Flashing red lights on a school bus mean one thing: STOP!

When motorists fail to exercise caution and follow the law, school bus stops and crossings can be hazardous, especially for young children.

A new law sharpens the focus on safety by increasing penalties and treating moving violations in school bus zones like violations in road construction zones. A school bus zone covers the area lying within 20 feet of a stopped school bus that is flashing its lights.

Public Acts 59 and 60 of 2011 make it a one-year misdemeanor for injuring and a 15-year felony for killing a child getting on or off a school bus.

Parents, please make sure your high school driver is aware of the new law and takes bus stop lights seriously.

